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LETTER DATED 30 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 27 August 1993 addressed to you from Mr. Karen Babourian, Chairman of the Parliament of Nagorny Karabakh.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

We note with regret that all our requests for the dispatch to Nagorny Karabakh of a special representative of the United Nations have remained unanswered.

We are deeply convinced that the Security Council's resolutions should be adopted on the basis of observations and findings by your representatives on both sides of the line of conflict. This would preclude bias and lack of objectivity in assessing the events taking place in the region.

The fact that our numerous communications have been ignored has meant that the world does not as yet know the truth about the sufferings of the people of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic, who are daily subjected to rocket artillery fire and bombing attacks, and stifling in the grip of the blockade. We are ready to provide hundreds of facts which testify to violations of Security Council resolutions by Azerbaijan, violations which remain unpunished. At the same time, any action in response by the Defence Force of Nagorny Karabakh meets with severe condemnation by the United Nations. There is manifest selectivity in the assessments, with no account being taken of the cause and effect relationships in the escalation of military action.

Having learned from bitter experience, we should like to draw your attention to the address to the people by the leader of Azerbaijan which was broadcast over the Republic's television and radio at 3 p.m. on 23 August 1993. Mr. Aliev unambiguously acknowledged the fact that peace talks between Nagorny Karabakh and Azerbaijan were broken off by Azerbaijani armed units not acting in accordance with instructions from the unified command. He also noted that the Armenian units and the civilian population left the district centre of Fizuli on the orders of the administrative head of the district, acting for purposes of provocation. Similar provocative actions, on Mr. Aliev's admission, were also carried out in the Djebrail district.

Essentially, this constitutes a refutation of the exaggerated account put about by certain circles concerning an alleged attack by units of the Defence Force of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic on Fizuli and Djebrail.

The presence of your representative in Nagorny Karabakh would make it possible for the Security Council to convince itself of the groundlessness of such assertions. We hope that this time an objective and dispassionate assessment of the events in the region will be forthcoming.

Allow me once again to assure you of the commitment of the leadership of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic to a peaceful settlement of the military conflict between Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh. The political and military leaders of the two conflicting parties - the Nagorny Karabakh Republic and the Azerbaijani Republic - have recently expressed their readiness to meet and continue contacts aimed at bringing about a general cease-fire.

We appeal to the United Nations and to all States of the world to facilitate in every way the development of a peaceful dialogue and to make their constructive contribution to it.

(Signed) K. BABOURIAN

Stepanakert, 27 August